found lead, when the cages were opened with the permission of the Customs Authorities. There was no direct involvment of Air India in this incident.

For bringing cows from West Germany to India, four charter flights were operated by MISR OVERSEAS AIRWAYS who were selected by the charters and importers. On a charter fight which was operated on 23rd January, 1987, 16 cattle had died. The charter flight on 2nd February, 1987 which was to operate via Rasa-al-Khaimah as a technical and refueling halt, was diverted to Muscat due to poor visibility 21 cattle died on this flight which was reported to be due to late positioning and malfunctioning of ground equipment at Muscat airport. In this case also, Air India|Bombay Airport authorities were not directly involved.

On the of an inquiry held into the death of cattle, the remaining cattle chareaters are being entrusted to a different airline. M|s. MISR Overseas Airways have been put on notice for indemnifying the claims for compensation/ damages.

Health hazards in Bombay

1718 SHRI RAM CHANDRA VIKAL :

SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that incidence of cancer and phenomenal spurt in complaints of chest pains, cough, burning eyes and other ailments were reported in early February in Bombay caused by a poisonous among for a number of days; and

(b) if so, whether any steps were taken in this respect to assist the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) Government have seen prees reports about the incidence of cancer and various other ailments due to a smog in Bombay in early February 1987. Experts are of the opinion that there can not be any sudden increase in cancer cases due to smog. However, exposure to smog can result in an increase in respiratory ailments, burning sensation in eyes, etc.

A series of steps have been taken by the Government of Maharashtra to control various types of pollution which cause such smogs.

Corruption in issuing driving licences by STA in Delhi

1719. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH:

SHRI RAM NARESH KUSHAWAHA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the flourishing touting business market at the State Transport Authority (STA), Delhi in securing licences by the untrained and inexperienced persons for driving passenger Vehicles which is becoming the main cause for the increasing number of road accidents in Delhi; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to identify the racket to check the corruption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) (a) Delhi Administration have intimated that although certain unauthorised persons are reported to be operating outside the premises of Motor Licensing Branch, the issuance of driving licences to the prospective applicant by this Branch is done only on successfully passing the test of driving competence.

(b) Directorate of Transport, Delhi Administration with the assistance of local police and Municipal Corporation have removed squaters from outside tthe premises of Motor Licensing Branches. Instructions have also been issued to the concerned staff not to entertain any unauthorised person in the office complex. Strict action is taken against the violation.